

HOUSE BILL 3295

By Vaughn

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68,
Chapter 1, Part 3, relative to providing emergency
dental services to indigents.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-1-301, is amended by deleting the present language in its entirety and by substituting instead the following language:

Section 68-1-301. The commissioner of health has general supervision of the interests of health and life of the citizens of this state, with special reference to the care and preservation of the mouth and teeth. The commissioner shall require all county health departments, with existing dental resources, including dental staff and dental facilities, and receiving state and/or federal funds, to treat indigent children or adults who present to the dental clinic with dental emergencies.

SECTION 2: Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-1-304, is amended by designating the present language as subsection (a) and by adding the following language as a new subsection:

(b) No county health department, with existing dental resources, including dental staff and dental facilities, and receiving state and/or federal funds shall refuse emergency dental care to an indigent child or adult who presents to the dental clinic seeking treatment.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008, the public welfare requiring it.